



State of Connecticut

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Testimony

HB 5391, An Act Concerning the Promotion of Tourism in the Lower CT River Valley. Commerce Committee February 26, 2015

Senator Hartley, Representative Perrone, Senator Frantz and Representative Camillo- Thank you for granting me the opportunity to testify before you HB 5391, An Act Concerning the Promotion of Tourism in the Lower CT River Valley.

The Lower CT River Valley is quite possibly one of the most beautiful and untouched rivers on the eastern sea board. I have spent time in the Mountains of Western China and on the shores of South East Asia and I can tell you all there this is no place like the CT River and the small communities that have sprung up around it. Seldom can other communities' boast of the arts, culture, and recreation that this little portion of the state offers.

Tourists can enjoy an Essex Steam train, comfortable hospitality in venues like the Water's Edge and the Saybrook Point Inn, Golf courses at Devils Hopyard, and a show at the Famous Goodspeed Opera House. I believe that these communities host revenue generating assets in a time when our state is almost constantly short on revenue. Unfortunately- these assets are not being marketed in a way that would maximize their tourism potential. Let's bring all of the interested parties together with the DECD, package these resources, and make tourists around the country aware of the unique colonial experience they can enjoy in our state.

I am available at any time to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.